This comment is in Reply to the comments filed by Southern Company, et.al.

In it comments Southern stated that it's goal was to provide clean power to it's critical industry customers, hence the need for BPL as a tool for system monitoring. This begs the question of how these critical industry customers using RF sensitive equipment will react to having a power supply contaminated with broadbanded RF, which might be construed as "noise" to sensitive equipment. Hospitals come immediately to mind.

Secondly, Southern, by it's own admission, operates an extensive fiber optic network. Presumably, they make extensive use of OPGL (Optical Ground Line) technology. I would contend that a better, more reliable method of system monitoring (as well as providing customers with extremely high speed, high reliability internet service) is to be had using OPGL technology. As the fiber is carried in the ground line, no bridging of transformers, and much less signal amplification would be required. Moreover, an OPGL system is much more secure.

I include the following quote from the Fiber Planners, Inc. website:

"Recently, a few utilities have decided to break the decade -old logjam on high speed communications to the home; since the phone company or cable TV company won't do this, they will. They are running fiber lines directly to their residential customers' homes. Direct fiber connections to the Internet with speeds of 100 Megabits per second or more make cable TV modems and DSL lines services seem puny in comparison. Customers with fiber to their home can now download any of thousands of movies on demand."

I stongly urge the Commission to reject BPL as obsolete and polluting technology and encourage the power industry to expand it's existing OPGL infrastructure accomodate both system control/monitoring, as well as provision of High Speed Internet service to their customers.